

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10-13 have been amended and claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 are cancelled. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10-15 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15 are rejected.

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are objected to.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are objected to but are indicated to be allowable if suitably rewritten to be dependent upon a rejected base claim or if rewritten to independent form including all the limitations of the respective base and any intervening claims.

More particularly, claim 3 has been rewritten into independent form, incorporating therein the limitations of allowable claim 5/3 and the latter has been cancelled.

Claim 7 has been rewritten into independent form, incorporating therein opening paragraph limitations of original, allowable dependent claim 5/3 and retaining the original closing paragraphs of claim 7 and accordingly, being rendered allowable as indicated by the Action.

All remaining claims have been amended to dependent from the respective, allowable independent claims 3 or 7, as appropriate.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 9-10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS ANTICIPATED BY CUNNINGHAM, ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 7,202,851);

ITEM 3: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS ANTICIPATED BY WEGMULLER, ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,646,632);

ITEM 5: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 8, 11 AND 15 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER WEGMULLER, ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,646,632);

The rejections are respectfully traversed, as moot, in view of the forgoing claim amendments.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: /H. J. Staas/
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501